

REMARKS

Applicant's representative thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview of August 11, 2004. Applicant's representative and the Examiner discussed the multi component injection molding technology and how it differs from the art cited in the present application. "Multi component injection molding" is known by one skilled in the art to mean two or more materials being injected into a single mold. This is shown, for example, in the article entitled "Multi Component Injection Molding: Rigid/Rigid and Rigid/Flexible Combinations", a copy of which is enclosed herewith. The term "multi component injection molding" as used in the claims is given this ordinary and customary meaning.

Claims 18-37 have been canceled herein, thus rendering the objections and rejections to such claims moot. Claims 38-52 have been newly added to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. According to the claimed invention, at least a first part and a second part of a hearing device are formed and joined together via multi component injection molding.

In contrast to the claimed invention, Aebi et al. (U.S. 5,530,763), which was cited by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed April 14, 2004, discloses manufacturing a hearing device by injection molding a skeleton and surrounding the skeleton with a diaphragm, wherein the diaphragm is fixed to support elements of the skeleton via welding, bonding, or the like. The skeleton and diaphragm assembly form a molding chamber. The structure is then adapted to an individual auditory canal and the molding chamber is filled with a hardening plastic mass, thereby deforming the hearing device in accordance with the individual auditory canal.

The addressed two-component molding in col. 5, line 3 of Aebi et al. is not equivalent to the claimed multi component injection molding. The two-component molding addressed in Aebi et al. refers to one material being molded from two separate components, such that the material enters a chemical reaction when mixed so as to initiate hardening; whereas, in multi component injection molding, two or more separate materials are injection molded within one mold to produce an object having sections of differing material composition. Accordingly, for at least the aforementioned reasons, it is submitted that Aebi et al. does not anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention.

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In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 32955.

Respectfully submitted,
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